



John L. Salomone
Town Manager

TOWN OF NEWINGTON

131 CEDAR STREET
NEWINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06111

MAYOR MICHAEL LENARES

Newington Town Council
Minutes – Tuesday, June 28, 2011
7:00 p.m.
Newington Town Hall – Helen Nelson Room

I PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

II ROLL CALL

Councilors Present:

Councilor Banach
Councilor Bottalico
Councilor Casasanta
Councilor Cohen
Councilor Klett
Councilor McBride
Councilor Nagel
Councilor Nasinnyk
Mayor Lenares

Staff Present:

John Salomone, Town Manager
Mary Richard, Council Clerk
Steven Woods, Chairman Board of Education
Tony Ferraro, Town Engineer

III PROCLAMATIONS

A Cable 14 – 25th Anniversary

Mayor Lenares read the Proclamation for 25th Anniversary of Cable 14 NCTV.

WHEREAS, Newington Community Television, Inc. was founded on June 23, 1986, as a local affiliate of the Cox Communications Community Access System; and

WHEREAS, Newington Community Television, Inc. is a tax-exempt, nonprofit Connecticut corporation manned principally by volunteers and dedicated to providing the residents of Newington with non-commercial public, educational and government access television programming; and

WHEREAS, Newington Community Television, Inc., during the 25 years of its existence, has, through its volunteers, successfully produced and aired thousands of hours of community access programming, consisting of live coverage and pre-recorded videotapes of a wide variety of local events and subjects of local concern; and

WHEREAS, Newington Community Television, Inc. has promoted civic awareness and citizen participation in local government by videotaping and televising Town Council Meetings, Board of Education Meetings, Town Plan & Zoning Commission Meetings, and budget and other significant local municipal meetings and hearings, as well as local political debates, candidate profiles, local election programs and events and activities sponsored by local government agencies; and

WHEREAS, Newington Community Television, Inc. has promoted community pride by producing and airing community announcements, school graduations, school band concerts, local sports events, religious services and activities sponsored by local civic organizations; and

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WHEREAS, Newington Community Television, Inc. has educated and entertained by producing and airing panel, variety, call-in, travel and informational shows, as well as the monthly Talk To The Mayor Show; and

WHEREAS, Newington Community Television, Inc. has promoted public safety by producing, videotaping and airing public service programs and announcements and, with the help of local businesses and emergency services, produced a teenage drunk-driving video, which received national recognition; and

WHEREAS, Newington Community Television, Inc. has promoted patriotism by producing and airing numerous civic and patriotic events, parades and veterans' memorial ceremonies and, through fundraising telethons, has contributed substantially in financing the Newington's annual Memorial Day Parade; and

WHEREAS, Newington Community Television, Inc. has assisted in the education of Newington's youth by encouraging and welcoming the active participation of numerous high school students in its community access operations and enhancing their technical skills by providing them with exposure to and experience in various fields of communications technology and making it possible for them to qualify for annual scholarships offered by Cox Communications and by the Cox Cable Advisory Council; and

WHEREAS, Newington Community Television, Inc. in the accomplishment of its community access pursuits, has exemplified perseverance, innovation and the highest ideals and serves as an outstanding example of civic-minded volunteerism; and

WHEREAS, Newington Community Television, Inc., through its achievements over the past 25 years, has expanded its operations from sharing the operation of Cox Cable channel 32 with the Towns of Wethersfield and Rocky Hill in 1986 to the 24/7 operation of Cox Communications town-specific community access channels 14 and 16, with its programming also appearing on AT&T U-Verse channel 99, and has thus become a vigorous and binding force in the community, instilling the citizens of Newington with mutual respect and civic pride;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Newington Town Council hereby offers its congratulations to Newington Community Television, Inc. upon the celebration of its 25th anniversary and extends its gratitude to this organization, its officers and its members for their many civic contributions;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the Council is directed to spread this resolution upon the minutes of this meeting and to provide a suitable copy for presentation to Newington Community Television, Inc.

Mayor Lenares congratulated Mike Rosencrantz on the excellent job he and his staff of volunteers has done for the last 25 years. Mr. Rosencrantz thanked the Council and everyone especially is staff of volunteers and also thanked the viewers for their appreciation and support.

Councilor Cohen said 'thank goodness' for Newington TV so the public can know what's going on and she said she has never seen a proclamation that had so much to say about what the Channel has done and has become a professional mammoth operation and has grown so much and certainly has served the Town. Councilor Klett thanked Mr. Rosencrantz for his commitment to the Town and the Community and she recognized two of the founding members Messrs. Vessella and Weaver, and have certainly helped bring NCTV to where it is from the beginning. Councilor Nasinnyk thanked Mike and all the members of NCTV. She said that these people behind the scene don't get the credit deserved and coming from where NCTV started it's been such a wonderful transformation and doing it out of the goodness of your heart, and since she's been on this Council she said she has a much greater appreciation of the workings involved.

Councilor Nagel congratulated everyone involved in NCTV. He said it's amazing that there are people who are founders and are still active and busy. He said it goes from every age and since becoming involved as liaison to this Council to NCTV and through that and since becoming a producer of Common Sense Connecticut which now is shown on NCTV but is shown throughout the Hartford area, not to brag but to say that what we have here is recognized many times over throughout many communities and it shows how NCTV has grown. Councilor McBride thanked the people at NCTV on what they have accomplished and said he had a very small roll at the old studios, and then to see the new studios especially the equipment and the knowledge to run this equipment and these people put in a lot of time and mastered it and brought it to where it is now. He said he can see it continue to grow and NCTV has a lot of volunteers who are dedicated people.

Councilor Casasanta congratulated Mike and all the people involved and she said it's great for people who can't get to meetings but can get the information they want and need through NCTV. Councilor Banach congratulated the people at NCTV, and said that they provide a real service that he thinks helps to keep the community together. Councilor Bottalico congratulated Mike and his people in this time when it's very tough to find volunteers and he said he hopes there's another 25 years in the future.

Public Comment:

Ed Vessella said he is proud to be here for NCTV and mentioned all the wonderful people involved, and he and Ed Weaver along with the Mayor at that time were originally worked together and had help from the Town Manager at that time and the Board of Education and lots of support from the Town, which is the secret of our success. Mr. Weaver thanked the Town for their work and continued support, and thanked Mr. Rosencrantz for all his work and dedication.

Mady Kenney, 53 Crestview Drive – thanked the NCTV for keeping the community involved and aware of what's happening in Town.

Mr. Steve Woods, Chairman Board of Education thanked the people at NCTV and said it's a wonderful organization that goes above and beyond and said that he hears from a lot of people who haven't been to meetings but can watch it on NCTV and is probably the best service we can ask for. He said that Mr. Rosencrantz along with this staff has been the reason for the success of this organization.

Rose Lyons, 46 Elton Drive said congratulations to NCTV for the service to this Town. She said it's great to be able to go to NCTV and get the information needed and thanked them for making this available.

Motion by Mayor Lenares
Seconded by Councilor Nasinnyk
Motion Passed 9-0

III.B Newington High School Baseball LL Champions 2011

Mayor Lenares read the certificate presented it to Mr. Eric Frank, Head Coach. He congratulated the coaches and the team on their excellent job and success. Mr. Frank thanked the Council for their recognition and he said that the team would be here tonight but they have a game, and on behalf of the players and coaching staff he thanked the Council.

Councilor Klett congratulated the coaches and players and their parents and it's one of the important things happening to this Town and has helped put us on the map. Councilor Nasinnyk said although she is not a big baseball fan, she ran into a parent of a player on the Southington team and was given a blow by blow and play by play description and recognized what a spectacular job the Newington High School Varsity Baseball Team had done. Councilor Banach said congratulated the coaches and players, and thinks they are the finest. Councilor McBride remembered playing in high school, the coach asked what the players wanted their legacy to be, and now when he sees the joy, it's something that will continue in life. He congratulated the team and their coaches on the great job.

Councilor Nagel said that some credit has to go to the parents with the getting the kids to the games, and keeping up their academic studies and if they missed it tonight they can see it on NCTV. Councilor Bottalico congratulated the team and when he looks at the list of kids he's so happy for them and what they've accomplished. Councilor Casasanta congratulated the success of the team and coaches. Councilor Cohen said although she is not a big baseball fan she recognizes the success and hard work done by these players and coaches and thanked them for putting Newington on the map.

Public Comment:

Mr. Steve Woods said that the coaches and team have done a wonderful job and although he has not been a big sports fan he realizes how big this is for the Town and how important it is that this will remain important in all their lives and looking back and knowing they were part of that team and he congratulated everyone.

Sharon Braverman, 39 Churchill Way said she is a sports fan and she knows how important it is to the Town and the High School and that energy that's created comes with a winning team. She's proud to be a part of Newington.

Mayor Lenares moved to accept the presentation of the award.

Councilor Nagel seconded

Vote 9 – 0

IV PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Carolyn Nagel asked about changing the address for the Town Hall because it's very difficult to explain where the Town is located.

V. CONSIDERATION OF NEW BUSINESS

VI.

Mr. Salomone asked that a new Item be added to the Agenda – V.C regarding Police cruisers. He included a memo and a Resolution if agreed.

Councilor Nasinnyk moved to waive the rules for Item V.C for New Business

Seconded by Councilor Bottalico

Vote 8 – 1 Councilor Klett voted no

A. Downtown Revitalization Committee

Mr. Tony Ferraro, Town Engineer, said there were eight bidders for the project and the lowest base bid was submitted by H.M. Nunes & Sons Construction in Ludlow, MA in the amount \$ 973,633.25

Councilor McBride said that having worked on this committee, it was a spectacular committee to work with and included information from the public and business owners. He said that the bottom line worked out well for everyone and thanked Councilors Banach, Bottalico and Cohen and Mayor Lenares. He thanked Mr. Ferraro for his guidance.

Councilor Cohen moved to waive the rules.

Councilor Banach seconded.

Vote 9 – 0

RESOLVED:

THAT the Newington Town Council hereby accepts the bids and authorizes the Town Manager, John L. Salomone, to execute appropriate contracts with H. M. Nunes and Sons Construction of Ludlow, Massachusetts in the amount of \$973,633.25 to furnish all of the materials and perform all of the work shown on the drawings and described in the specifications prepared by the Town of Newington and as in the Contract Documents entitled Market Square Streetscape Improvements, Bid No. 9,2010-11.

MOTION BY: Councilor McBride

SECONDED BY: Councilor Banach

VOTE: 8 – 1 Councilor Klett voted no

Councilor Klett wondering about the projects done in our State by this Company and if anyone checked the references. She asked if anyone knows who specifically spoke to anyone regarding the references. Mr. Salomone said that Mr. Ferraro was referring to was the Park Street project was bid in multiple segments and that the segment from H.M. Nunes was acceptable to the City of Hartford. Other parts of the Park Street project that were of concern, but the part done by H.M. Nunes was completed satisfactorily. Councilor Klett asked on the application is there a requirement on safety, and she didn't see where this company had any issues pertaining to safety previously and she did some research and it appears that they were cited by Massachusetts, and asked whether we were aware that they were fined for a safety violation and failed to report this violation on the application. She said she is concerned that they failed to disclose this violation. Mayor Lenares asked Mr. Ferraro if any of this matters, he said we have a low bid, with multiple inspections. Councilor Klett that the issue is the 'failure to disclose'.

Councilor Cohen said that we have a low bidder and unless we have a very good reason not to go with the low bidder we'd be liable for a lot of law suits. She said there will be lots of inspections of Malone and MacBroom and is confident that we won't have any problems. Councilor McBride said that he had worked at UConn and OSHA approached him because he was not wearing a hard hat and was told that he needed to wear a hard hat and steel toed shoes. There are a lot of things one can get fined for but does not mean we should pull back on a project. He asked Mr. Ferraro that we be sure that workers are wearing hard hats. Councilor Cohen said it would be difficult to explain why we did not accept the low bidder because of a fine.

Mayor Lenares said that we are not going to reject the low bidder. This is not the first time we've accepted a contract and had this discussion. He said he doesn't know why this is coming up now. This has nothing to do with this project. Councilor Klett said that this may not be an issue to some people, but she feels that she won't support this company, it may pass but not with her vote, she does support the project but when she asks who was spoken to regarding references and no one knows, she can't support that. Councilor Bottalico asked if that was in Massachusetts. He said that this company is a legitimate contractor and he agrees that a lot of these contractors have a lot of violations and doesn't know if they in fact have to fill out violations. Councilor Klett said it's not violations, but the 'failure to disclose'.

Motion by Councilor McBride
Seconded by Councilor Banach
Vote 8 – 1 Councilor Klett said no

B. John Wallace Middle School partial roof replacement

Present were Mr. Steve Woods, Chairman of the Board of Education and Mr. Lou Jachimowicz, Board of Education Business Manager.

Mr. Jachimowicz said that the recommended bid from Commercial Roofing of Putnam was \$1,318,935. and was set up in a modular fashion because of the footprint of the roof area that needs to be replaced. He said that he wanted the Council to consider this bid to maximize the amount of work that can be completed this summer. Councilor Cohen said that the money from the State is not in hand but number one the roof is leaking and no matter what the roof has to be repaired. We have the money and the roof is leaking and needs to be repaired. She said that the committee recommended that we go ahead with the project. Mr. Salomone said there's nothing on the table that would change the percentages for roof repairs and he is confident that eventually we will be ok.

Councilor Cohen moved to waive the rules
Councilor Nasinnyk seconded
Vote 9 - 0

RESOLVED:

THAT the Newington Town Council hereby accepts the bid and authorizes Town Manager, John L. Salomone, to enter into contract with Commercial Roofing of Putnam, Connecticut for the amount of \$1,318,935.00, for the partial roof replacement of John Wallace Middle School, Sections A – J, as per the specifications for Bid No. 5, 2010-11. Further, the Newington Town Council accepts the project budget as submitted by the Board of Education Roof Replacement Project Building Committee.

MOTION BY: Councilor Cohen
SECONDED BY: Councilor Bottalico
VOTE: 9 - 0

Councilor Nasinnyk asked Mr. Woods if any portion of the roof been replaced last year. Mr. Jachimowicz said it had only been patched. Councilor Bottalico asked when the project should be started and will it be completed in September. Mr. Jachimowicz said weather permitting it should start as soon as possible and should be done by August 21st. Councilor Cohen said that this will cover the entire roof with the exception is the part that was added on. Mr. Woods said that that part of the building is ten years old and still good.

- C. Police Cruisers
- D.

Mr. Salomone explained that this is a good opportunity for the Town in that there are Crown Victoria police cruisers available. He is asking to waive the bid which will be saving money and he is recommending purchasing three and see how the money goes.

WHEREAS the Town of Newington wishes to purchase Ford Crown Victoria police cruisers and WHEREAS, Ford Motor Company ceased production of these vehicles prior to January 1, 2011, and WHEREAS, there are no longer competitive bids for Crown Victoria police cruisers that the Town can participate in, and WHEREAS those Crown Victoria police cruisers that are remaining for purchase are limited in their availability, and WHEREAS the dealership, Crowley Ford, will sell three Crown Victoria police cruisers for a price of \$23,476 each, and WHEREAS \$10,000 is the limit the Town can purchase without a formal sealed bid; NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that pursuant to Section 814 B of the Newington Town Charter, the Town Council hereby grants a waiver, as requested by the Town Manager, for the requirement of sealed bids for the purchase of these police cruisers from Crowley Ford of Plainville, Connecticut for the total purchase price of \$70,428.

Councilor Cohen moved to waive the rules
Councilor Casasanta Seconded
Vote 9 – 0

MOTION BY: Councilor Casasanta
SECONDED BY: Councilor Bottalico
VOTE: 8 – 1 Councilor Klett voted no

Councilor Klett said that she is not comfortable with waiving the bid process. Councilor Nasinnyk said she will support this motion and that with purchasing three vehicles for \$23,476 each, we'll still have money left over. Mr. Salomone said he shared Councilor Klett's concerns about the approach and that it's a little unusual but he feels that this is a competitive number and he's afraid that we'll lose the opportunity to grab these vehicles. He said these are being snapped up by some departments. Councilor Banach asked if time is of the essence. Mr. Salomone said that many towns are trying to get these vehicles. Councilor Cohen asked if we didn't get these vehicles now, what would it cost us for three vehicles. Mr. Salomone said that these won't be available later at these prices and later would cost about \$28,000 per unit and this is a very good deal. Councilor Klett asked if we have ever bought other vehicles from Crowley and Mr. Salomone said yes we have and Crowley has always been good to deal with. Councilor Klett said she won't support this. Mr. Salomone said that he appreciates the concerns but thinks we should take advantage of this opportunity.

VII. RESIGNATIONS/APPOINTMENTS

Councilor Banach made a correction on Section 5 – Central CT Health District Board of Health in that we had appointed Enzo Pistrino on February 22nd noted on Page 4. He is unaffiliated and looking at Section 5 Nancy Bafundo was appointed until June 30, 2013 and Enzo Pistrino had been appointed until to June 30, 2013 for that term.

Councilor Casasanta requested to name Ms. Susan Wright to be installed in the Library Board of Directors. No information has been confirmed on this matter.

VII. TAX REFUNDS

RESOLVED:

That property tax refunds in the amount of \$1,165.12 are hereby approved in the individual amounts and for those named on the "Requests for Refund of an Overpayment of Taxes," certified by the Revenue Collector, a list of which is attached to this resolution.

MOTION BY: Councilor McBride
SECONDED BY: Councilor Nasinnyk

VOTE: 9 - 0

VIII MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- A. June 14, 2011 – Councilor Cohen – Under New Business – 7th line – should read “no matter how”
Also Page 8 – Regarding Cedar Mountain – inaudible

Councilor Cohen moved to accept the minutes with corrections. Seconded by Councilor McBride. Vote 9 - 0

IX WRITTEN/ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE TOWN MANAGER, OTHER TOWN AGENCIES AND OFFICIALS, OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES AND OFFICIALS AND THE PUBLIC

A. Town Manager Reports

Mr. Salomone said he is following the State budget situation and the Governor recommended a number including about \$54,000,000 reduction in grants for next year which is about 2.4% of the number. He said he's not sure which grants would be affected and also it is subject to State Legislative approval and might change.

X COUNCIL LIAISON/COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilor Nasinnyk said that on June 20th the part of the standing insurance committee met. Usually before July 1st the State Insurance committee likes to bring forward some type of resolution to accept next year's insurance package. Last year the Council agreed to a budget program thru Jun 30, 2013 for the liability auto and property coverage through CIRMA. We don't really have to make any gesture to accept that and as it turns out with our agent the Town has done very well with the programs we have done. CIRMA has reduced the premiums for our auto liability and property coverage and even though there was a slight increase in the property there was a decrease in the premium so we actually made out a little better. Also there was a probability that there will be an increase in CIRMA rates and it needs to be noted that the General Government and the Board of Education staff, according to CIRMA, that CIRMA will be taking us on again because they do recognize that the Town has a very good rate as relates to safety etc. She reports that things are going very well and the decisions we made last year will benefit us next year. More information will be available in September with a more formal meeting. Councilor McBride regarding Market Square commented on the many improvements being done i.e. sidewalks, crosswalks, cutting trees that are damaging the sidewalks and also hiding the businesses and their signs. Also the drainage issues, adding some bike racks and adding some garbage cans. It's important to note that the construction work will be very minor, maybe during the destruction process there may be some intrusive issues but the businesses will be opened during this construction and he asked the public to come down and patronize these businesses.

Councilor Klett said that on the artificial turf, said there was a meeting where the members had to spend some their contingency fund for portions of it and the drainage issue is one of the most element so we may have to spend some money to resolve these problems.

XI PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Rose Lyons, 46 Elton Drive said that a few weeks ago she had requested that the New Meadow pathway be maintained by the Parks & Rec Department and she went to the Parks & Rec and is happy that some has been done but a lot remains to be done. She suggested that now that school is out would be a good time to trim some of the trees that are an issue and asked the Council to do whatever they might do to expedite that. She also commented on the public seating, it is sometimes impossible to hear a speaker when addressing the Council and she doesn't know how the public can hear from the TV cameras. She thanked the Council for all they have done.

XII REMARKS BY COUNCILORS

Councilor Casasanta said that she is resigning from the Council as of this July 1st and this will be her last meeting. She thanked the members of the Council for almost two years and thanked the Town for lively discussions and thanked the public for their faith in her and thanked her husband Michael for his support, loyalty and all the time spent on the Council. She said she has learned so much from this experience and has done what she believes was the right things for this Town.

Councilor Bottalico asked Mr. Salomone when the Health Benefit package might be ready. Mr. Salomone said he isn't sure. Councilor Bottalico said regarding the artificial turf matter we have more change orders coming up, and he would imagine there would be a meeting on this soon. Also he mentioned that the sidewalk on the entrance at the Town Hall was fixed but had some complaints regarding the handicap entrance. Mr. Salomone said that will be addressed also.

Councilor Klett said that an Executive Session is scheduled for tonight and some material she requested are items in process and wondered why it wasn't on the agenda for tonight. Mr. Salomone said that this was an oversight on his part. She said that perhaps we can correct that oversight and make sure it gets on the next agenda.

Councilor Cohen said good bye to Councilor Casasanta and thanked her for her service.

Councilor Nasinnyk mentioned Mrs. Nagel's comment on changing the address on this building because this is a very difficult place to find. Mr. Salomone said he asked for some research on this and it's very difficult to change an address, i.e. changing all paper, letterhead etc. He said the Library is writing to all the search engines we have requesting that they change their search engine address to locate it easier. Councilor Nasinnyk also said farewell to Councilor Casasanta, she asked if it's Rocky Hill they were moving to and wished her good luck.

Councilor Banach also wished Councilor Casasanta well.

Councilor Nagel said he was sad that Councilor Casasanta is leaving and appreciates all she has done. Also he congratulated the Friends of the Library in latest fund raiser and also congratulated NCTV which was a wonderful event and on another note regarding the signage, he knows there's some signs to get to Town Hall and he suggested more signs directing people to the Town Hall entrance. Also he noted that the board at the front of the Town Hall which has been updated, was still reading that NCTV is still located at their old location on Welles Street where people went and found no building.

Councilor McBride thanked Councilor Casasanta for her dedication and work done with the Council. Regarding the police cruisers, sometimes it's better to spend money in order to save money when it does it pay off in the end.

Councilor Klett said she appreciated the time Councilor Casasanta has spent working with the Council and asked if she would be involved with the Rocky Hill Council.

Mayor Lenares thanked Councilor Casasanta for her dedication and work with the Council and knows that sometimes the disagreeing works for great discussions.

XIII EXECUTIVE SESSION RE:

A. Discussion of property acquisition

Councilor Bottalico made a motion to go to Executive Session at 9 pm. Seconded by Councilor Banach Vote 9 – 0. In attendance were all Councilors, the Town Manager and legal counsel. Councilor Klett exited Executive Session at 9:10 pm.

Councilor Cohen moved to adjourn the Executive Session at 10:20 pm. Seconded by Councilor Bottalico. Vote 8 – 0 (Councilor Klett absent)

XIV ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Bottalico moved to adjourn the regular meeting at 10:20 pm. Seconded by Council Banach. Vote 8 – 0 (Councilor Klett absent).

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Richard
Council Clerk